



T-1A Jayhawk



T-38C Talon

SUPT Class 09-05 earns silver wings



1st Lt. Younous A. Abdoulaye
C-130, N'dajmena AFB, Chad



1st Lt. Christopher A. Herron
MQ-1, Cannon AFB, N.M.



2nd Lt. Christopher Q. Brehob
KC-135, Birmingham Int'l Airport, Ala.



2nd Lt. Christopher J. Brown
C-130, Rosencrans Memorial Airport, Mo. (ANG)

Seventeen officers have prevailed during a year of training, earning the right to be an Air Force pilot.

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 09-05 graduates at 10 a.m. today during a ceremony at the Kaye Auditorium.

The graduation speaker is Col. Jeff Dunn, 14th Flying Training Wing vice commander, Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. The wing conducts specialized undergraduate pilot training for U.S. Air Force and allied officers. The wing's 209 aircraft fly over 65,000 sorties and 92,000 hours annually in 34,000 square miles of airspace. He is responsible for day-to-day operations of base support functions and mission activities of more than 3,100 people, an operations and maintenance budget of \$110 million and capital assets and equipment exceeding \$740 million. In addition, the wing supports seven associate units and provides essential contingency mission support for Air Education and Training Command, the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Students receive their silver pilot's wings at the ceremony, and students who excelled in their respective training tracks are recognized.

First Lt. Christopher McCall, T-1, received the Air Education and Training Command Commander's Trophy for being the most outstanding students overall in their classes.

The Air Force Association Award was presented to 2nd Lt. John Grimes, T-1. The award is presented to a graduate in each flight who excelled in training and typified the tenets of the association — promoting aerospace power and a strong national defense.

Lieutenant McCall, T-1, and 2nd Lt. Kenneth Lusignan, T-1, were named distinguished graduates.

The 52-week pilot training program begins with a six-week preflight phase of academics and physiological training to prepare students for flight.

The second phase, primary training, is conducted in the single-engine, tur-

boprop T-6A Texan II at Columbus AFB, Miss. Students learn aircraft flight characteristics, emergency procedures, takeoff and landing procedures, aerobatics and formation flying. Students also practice night, instrument and cross country navigation flying.

Primary training takes approximately 23 weeks and includes 254.4 hours of ground training, 27.3 hours in the flight simulator and 89 hours in the T-6A aircraft.

After primary training, students select, by order of merit, advanced training in the fighter-bomber or airlift-tanker track.

Both tracks are designed to best train pilots for successful transition to their follow-on aircraft and mission.

Advanced training for the fighter track is done in the T-38C Talon, a tandem-seat, twin-engine supersonic jet. T-38 training emphasizes formation, advanced aerobatics and navigation. Training takes approximately 26 weeks and includes 381 hours of ground training, 31.6 hours in the flight simulator and 118.7 hours in the T-38C aircraft.

The airlift-tanker track uses the T-1A Jayhawk, the military version of a multi-place Beech Jet 400 business jet.

Instruction centers on crew coordination and management, instrument training, cross-country flying and simulated refueling and airdrop missions. Training takes about 26 weeks and includes 185 hours of ground training, 43 hours in the

flight simulator and 104 hours in the T-1A aircraft.

Each class is partnered with two business or civic organizations during their year of training. This program is designed to foster closer ties between the community and Columbus Air Force Base. Today, each student will be given a set of pilot wings with their names engraved on the back as a token of good luck from their partners. Class 09-05 pilot partners are Mr. Lynn Robinson, Air Control Engineering, and Ms. Marleen Hansen, Cartney-Hunt House.



2nd Lt. John T. Grimes
T-1, Columbus AFB, Miss.



2nd Lt. Daniel C. Hartung
C-17, McChord AFB, Wash.



2nd Lt. James J. Ketterer
C-130, Louisville Int'l Airport, Ken. (ANG)



2nd Lt. James D. Lee
KC-135, McConnell AFB, Kan.



2nd Lt. Kenneth D. Lusignan
T-6, Columbus AFB, Miss.



2nd Lt. Richard J. Mack
C-5, Westover ARB, Mass. (AFRES)



2nd Lt. Christopher J. Schiener
C-17, McChord AFB, Wash.




2nd Lt. Scott S. Swigonski
NSA, Cannon AFB, N.M.



2nd Lt. Kyle R. Vaughn
C-17, Travis AFB, Calif.



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Vol. 33, Issue 6

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February 13, 2009

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Weather

Today




High: 63, Low: 50
Showers

Saturday




High: 63, Low: 42
Partly Cloudy

Sunday



High: 61, Low: 33
Mostly Cloudy

Monday



High: 57, Low: 42
Scattered showers

News Briefs

Columbus AFB Blood Drive

There will be a blood drive sponsored by the 14th Medical Group and Mississippi Blood Services today from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Chapel. Because it is a Friday before a three-day weekend, pilots will be able to donate and receive the required 72 hours of rest prior to resuming flying, as mandated by AFI 48-123. Donations are greatly needed and appreciated and all donors will receive a free t-shirt. For more information or if you would like to schedule a time please contact 2nd Lt. Adam Irvin at 434-2123 or 2nd Lt Janelle West at 434-2676.

Masquerade Party

In observance of Black history Month, a masquerade party will be held Feb. 20 at the Columbus Club at 7 p.m. Cost is \$10 per individual and masks are available ranging from \$2 to \$5. There will be food available and entertainment along with child-care. For more in formation, call Tynisa Eleby at 434-2337.

(Left) Maj Marcus "COOP" Cooper, III, an instructor pilot with the 49th Fighter Training Squadron, sits in front of an F-117 Nighthawk; one of the numerous aircraft the major has flown in and taught others to fly in his 24-year-career. (Right) Major Cooper stands with his daughter, Stephanie Cooper, in front of a T-38C Talon prior to their father-daughter taxi. Major Cooper retires today after 11 years at Columbus AFB.


Third generation fighter pilot retires

Lt. Col. Tor Dietrichs


Commander, 49th Fighter Training Squadron

Today the Black Knights of the 49th Fighter Training Squadron celebrate the retirement of one of their own, Maj. Marcus “COOP” Cooper, III. Events will include a morning “fini-flight”, an afternoon retirement ceremony, and an evening retirement dinner. A career pilot with over 3,200 fighter hours, Major Cooper completes a military career which caps three generations of service to the U.S. Air Force. Major Gen. Marcus Cooper, I, first flew in the Army Air Corps of the early 1930s before moving to the civilian flying with the Boeing Air Transport Company (which would later merge with several aviation companies to form United Airlines). Commercial pilots in those days were not yet unionized, and the long hours and grueling work schedule led General Cooper to return to the military for the superior quality of life. Besides a more stable family environment, he had the chance to get in on the ground floor of newly developing procedures involving instrument flight. Later in the 1950s, he commanded the Fighter Flight Test Program at Edwards AFB, Calif., where he flew more than 250 different kinds of aircraft. Like his fellow intrepid aviators of those days at Edwards AFB, including Chuck Yeager, he was known to have barely cheated death many, many times. The famous movie, The Right Stuff, depicts the early days of fighter flight testing at Edwards AFB. If you recall those fascinating images See PILOT, Page 2

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Columbus AFB Training Timeline															
Phase II				Phase III				IFF				Wing Sortie Board			
Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Track Select	Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation	Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation	Aircraft	Required	Flown	Annual
37th (09-14)	7.18 days	-0.03 days	Mar. 10	48th (09-05)	0.00 days	0.00 days	Feb. 13	49th (09-DB)	1.64 days	-1.61 days	Mar. 13	T-6	1,085	1,038	10,098
41st (09-15)	-11.12 days	-7.11 days	Apr. 2	50th (09-06)	1.37 days	1.17 days	Mar. 13					T-1	393	360	3,898
												T-38	315	299	2,975
												IFF	102	111	1,074
Graduation speaker: The graduation speaker is Col. Jeff Dunn, 14th Flying Training Wing Vice Commander, Columbus, MS.															

CMYK

Track Select

2nd Lt. Barbour, Dustin A.	T-1	2nd Lt. Naske, Daniel A.	T-1
2nd Lt. Blaufuss, Jeffrey M.	T-38	2nd Lt. O'Malley, Sean P.	T-1
2nd Lt. Buckley, Seth A.	UH-1	2nd Lt. Park, Brian M.	T-1
2nd Lt. Burrows, Kenneth J.	T-1	2nd Lt. Powell, Bryan S.	T-1
2nd Lt. Clapp, Mitchell C.	UH-1	2nd Lt. Richeson, Nathan D.	T-1
2nd Lt. Douglass, Matthew N.	T-1	2nd Lt. Riesenbergs, Mark R.	T-44
2nd Lt. Friel, Ian T.	T-1	2nd Lt. Rutland, Robert B.	T-1
2nd Lt. Irino, Hiroki	T-38	2nd Lt. Salvino, Joseph T.	T-1
2nd Lt. Johnson, Casey M.	T-44	2nd Lt. Takemura, Ryota	T-38
2nd Lt. Jones, Bryan C.	UH-1	2nd Lt. Tisa, Paul C.	T-1
2nd Lt. Kempen, Benjamin C.	T-38	2nd Lt. Van Alstine, David P.	T-44
2nd Lt. Miller, Matthew R.	T-1	2nd Lt. Walters, Aaron D.	T-1
2nd Lt. Mogel, Adam C.	T-1	2nd Lt. Waters, John D.	T-38

Dubisher Award
Lt. Adam Mogel

T-6 Top Guns
Contact: Lt. Nanthan Richeson
Instrument: Lt. Adam Mogel
Formation: Lt. Benjamin Kempen

09-13

PILOT

(Continued from Page 1)

from the movie, then you have an idea of the kind person Major Cooper had for a grandfather. General Cooper was there. He lived it. And in the process, became one of the legends which helped form the foundation of fighter aviation.

It was clear growing up in this atmosphere that Major Cooper's father, Col. Marcus Cooper, II, (retired) was destined for a fighter career in the U.S. Air Force. He attended Undergraduate Pilot Training at Vance AFB, Okla., in 1962, and he not only earned his wings there in 1963, but celebrated the birth of his son, Marcus Cooper, III. After time as both a T-37 and T-38 First Assignment Instructor Pilot, he transitioned to the F-4 Phantom. During a tour in Vietnam in the late 1960s, he amassed over 100 combat missions over North Vietnam and more than 250 combat missions over South Vietnam. In the late 1970s, Colonel Cooper served as a squadron commander at Homestead AFB, Fla., flying the F-4, and in the 1980s as a wing commander at Osan AB, Republic of Korea, flying the A-10 Thunderbolt.

Like grandfather like father like son, Major Cooper was destined for a career in fighters. He met his wife, Rhonda, in Florida when they were students at Homestead High School. Graduating in

1981, he went on to graduate from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1985. The next day he married Rhonda and five days later he started UPT at Sheppard AFB, Texas. Earning his wings and an F-16, Major Cooper's first F-16 operational tour was in the 308th Tactical Fighter Squadron, Homestead AFB, Fla., the same squadron his father commanded in the late 1970s.

Major Cooper's efforts, fueled no doubt by the fighter DNA pumping through his veins, led him to achieve a rare feat: he upgraded to F-16 four-ship Flight Lead as a first lieutenant. He was the youngest flight lead in the wing and the only lieutenant to serve as a functional check flight pilot. He later went on to serve on the F-16 West Coast Demonstration Team while an instructor pilot at Luke AFB, Ariz. In 1991, coming off its success during Desert Storm, the F-117 Nighthawk was emerging from its world of secrecy and new applicants were being sought.

At that time, an F-117 program selection criterion was more stringent than Fighter Weapons School. Again, Major Cooper's abilities propelled him above the crowd, as he was one of only four selected from a final selection pool of 75 applicants.

Following a four-year tour in the F-117, Cooper was again competitively selected, this time one of only two chosen in 1996 to fly the F/A-18 Hornet in the Navy

Exchange Program. He upgraded to F/A-18 instructor and evaluator pilot, and was both day and night carrier-qualified.

In 1999, like his grandfather six decades earlier, Major Cooper transitioned out of the active duty military to fly full time for a major airline. During this time he also served in the Air Force Reserve. However, being more fighter than pilot, Major Cooper realized this couldn't last and after a few years he returned to active duty. "You often don't realize what you have until it's gone," reflected Cooper. "Having flown for a period in the airlines and then returning to active duty, the difference in the quality of people is amazing." The level of camaraderie, performance, and passion in the people is second to none," Cooper added.

He served a year at Osan AB, Korea in the wing his father had commanded, before transitioning in 2004 to the Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals mission in the AT-38B in the 49th Fighter Training Squadron at Moody AFB, Ga. He moved with the squadron to Columbus AFB, Miss., in 1997.

"I wouldn't trade my experiences for anything...flying for 19 of 20 years of active duty service, and all but pilot training spent in fighter squadrons," reflected Cooper.

Godspeed Rhonda and Coop, the Black Knights wish you the best!

SILVER WINGS

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Submission Deadline

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Submit all advertising to the Columbus, Miss., Commercial Dispatch advertising department one week prior to desired publication date. The advertising department can be reached at (662) 328-2427.

Air Force takes top spot in NFL Military Challenge again



U.S. Air Force photo/Mark Munsey
1st Lt. Nate Allen (front) takes off for the final pass of the quarterback challenge as Capt. Marcus Fox crosses the line Feb. 7 during the NFL Military Challenge in Oahu's Kapiolani Park. Capt. Dwayne Clark completed all eight of his pass attempts, most notably the record-setting 43 yard toss to Lieutenant Allen on the competition's final play.

Mark Munsey
15th Airlift Wing contributor

HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE, Hawaii — As the Hickam-rostered Air Force team went for their fourth straight victory in the NFL Military Challenge Feb. 6 and 7 at Oahu's Kapiolani Park, the storyline bordered on stale.

So like any good movie sequel, in addition to the returning villains — Army, Navy, Marine and Coast Guard teams — a couple of new antagonists made their debut.

The base's operational readiness inspection schedule kept Senior Airman Richard Good from thrice-defending his field goal kicking crown. Instead, 1st Lt. Mike Maynard did his best Matt (New England Patriot punter) Cassel impression replacing a legend. If it weren't for the Army team, with a former collegian kicker on their roster making all 10 of his swings, Maynard's nine would have kept the streak alive.

Then there was the challenge officials themselves conspiring against the blue during the punting competition. While several unofficial scorekeepers had Senior Airman Nathan Angel three-punt yardage total — including the event's only non-penalized crush of 37 yards — firmly locked in second place, the judges ponderously placed him fourth.

It was a wake-up call, according to Capt. Nate Allen, Air Force four-year team captain who was unaccustomed to anything but trophy posing at the closing ceremonies.

"We knew we had to take care of this ourselves," he said.

The five-person 40-yard dash relay had a new twist: all the teams running at once. A chance to clear up old debts, according to Capt. Marcus Fox, former championship track star at Claflin College in Orangesburg, S.C.

"They clocked the Army beating us by about 1/100th of a second last year," he bemoaned. "This was a sprint to redemption."

It was left to the last-leg and legs of Senior Airman Winston Jackson, to seal the deal, but not without drama.

"I slipped and he got off better than me," Jackson said. "But I caught him."

It was the team's first first-place finish, but far from it's last.

Newcomer Capt. Dwayne Clark became the team's fourth quarterback in as many years, but the passing competition results remained the same. The only team to not miss a single reception opportunity, the victory was already well in hand when, with seconds remaining, Clark gave the subtle head nod to final receiver Allen, who blasted down the sideline and hauled in a 43-yarder.

The final challenge, which anyone who has tried to make a varsity roster would recognize as 'suicides' was best summed up by the Marine team captain: "I didn't know we were coming out here against the Air Force track and field team."

Another event victory, another overall day of the other branches playing for second place; the Coasties and Marines tied for fourth, Navy came in third and Army placed second.

Allen, in his final military challenge before heading back to Colorado Springs to, naturally, become a position coach on the Air Force Academy football team where he starred just four years ago, kept the day's events in perspective even as held the victor's cup high.

"It's been a great chance to compete against our sister-service warriors in a friendly, athletic environment," he said. "I just wish I could be here next year when we go for one for the thumb."

Sports Shorts

Fitness Classes: The Fitness Center offers fitness classes. Spin classes are Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays beginning at 7 a.m. Cardio kick boxing classes are Mondays and Wednesdays at 5 p.m. and aerobics is offered Saturdays at 9 a.m. For more information, call the Fitness Center at 434-2772.

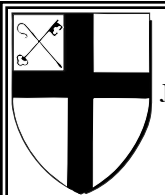
Lunch, Bowl Special: Receive two free games of bowling from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. with the purchase of a combo meal during lunch.

Cosmic Bowling: Cosmic bowling is every Friday and Saturday from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Cost is \$2 per game. The night is complete with black lights, loud music, strobe lights and bowling!

Tuesday Intramural Basketball Scores

Game One: 48th FTS VS. 14th MDG	Game Two: 14th OSS VS. 14th CONS
The 48th FTS defeated the 14th MDG with a score of 56-45	The 14th OSS defeated the 14th CONS with a score of 48-46

<u>Mon</u>	<u>Tue</u>	<u>Wed</u>	<u>Thur</u>	<u>Fri</u>	<u>Sat/Sun</u>
16 President's Day Holiday	17 10-05 Pilot Partner Welcome 6 p.m.	18 BLAZE Lunch Bunch 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. @ Club	19	20 Masquerade Ball & Sweetheart Dinner 6 p.m. @ Club Lafayette High School AF JROTC Base Tour	21/22
23 Airman Leadership School (2/23 - 3/6) Spread the Word Briefing 9 a.m. & 2:30 p.m. @ Kaye Auditorium	24	25 BLAZE Lunch Bunch 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. @ Club Enlisted Promotions 3:30 p.m. @ Club	26 ATMOS Energy Base Tour	27 09-06 Assignment Night 5 p.m.	28/1 Autocross (2/28 - 3/1)
Long Term Events Mar. 2-6 - AETC/CC/CCC Conference Mar. 10 - 09-14 Track Select Mar. 11 - Annual Awards Banquet Mar. 12 - OSC Social			Mar. 13 - SUPT 09-06 Graduation Mar. 13 - 09-EB IFF Graduation Mar. 13 - Daedalians Dinner Mar. 19 - Dorm Dinner		



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IFF 09-DB graduates eight

Eight members of the Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals course graduated Friday in a ceremony in the Heritage Room of the 49th Fighter Training Squadron.

The 49th FTS is responsible for Active Duty and inter-national AT-38C flying training. The 49th FTS also provides IFF training to pilots and weapon system officers entering all Air Force major fighter weapons systems. This six-week course introduces pilots to air-to-air employment, air-to-surface attack and low-altitude navigation in the AT-38C Talon.


During the ceremony the graduates learned of special awards to be handed out to the class.

Captain Johnny Koegel was awarded the Air-to-Air top gun award. Air-to-Air top gun is an award given for superior aerial weapons employment during IFF. The holder of this award represents the best of the graduating class in the Air to Air Combat.


The Air-to-Ground top gun award went to Capt. Joe Bob Howard. The Air-to-Ground top gun is an award given for superior employment of air to ground munitions during IFF. The holder of this award represents the best of the graduating class in the Air to Ground Realm.

The Top Weapons System Operator award went to 1st Lt. Josh Biber.


Along with IFF training, the 49th FTS is also responsible for upgrade instructor pilot training for instructors continuing to command-wide assignments.




Capt. Kendall Chudy
F-15E




Capt. Mike Glass
F-15C




Capt. Joe Bob Howard
F-16




Capt. Johnny Koegel
F-15C




Capt. Jay Labrum (Idaho ANG)
A-10



1st Lt. Josh Biber
F-15 WSO



1st Lt. Joseph Stenger
F-15E



1st Chris Zaremski
F-15E WSO

Prayer breakfast




U.S. Air Force Photo by Melissa Duncan

Chaplain, Brig. Gen. David Cyr, Air Force deputy chief of chaplains, speaks with Col. Roger Watkins, 14th Flying Training Wing commander and his wife Leslie, at the Columbus AFB Prayer Breakfast Thursday, Feb.4. Over 300 BLAZE Team members and supporters joined Chaplain Cyr at the annual prayer breakfast.

I am a warrior
Today's Airmen expect to be deployed. Overall, more than 33,000 Airmen are deployed to contingencies across the globe; of that number, 26,000 Airmen are in the fight in the CENT-COM AOR, to include Iraq, Afghanistan and the Horn of Africa. The mission is dangerous; therefore, the warrior ethos must part of every Airman.

**14TH FLYING
TRAINING
WING DEPLOYED**
As of press time, 56 BLAZE TEAM members are deployed world-wide. Remember to support the Airmen and their families while they are away.



CAFB pilots AF cross country champs

Senior Airman Jacob Corbin
14 Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Pilots are accustomed to going fast in the air, but two Columbus Air Force Base pilots got their chance to prove they're also fast on the ground against not only other military members, but professional runners also — and they found out they're pretty fast.

Capt. Benjamin Payne, 41st Flying Training Squadron, and 2nd Lt. Ian McFarland, a student pilot with the 14th Operations Support Squadron, and their teammates on the Air Force Cross Country Team took first place Feb. 7 Armed Forces Cross Country Championships in Baltimore, Md. Their win marked the first time since 2004 Team Air Force beat their sister services.

The annual military competition was run in conjunction with the U.S.A Cross Country Championships, where Captain Payne placed 66th overall and Lieutenant McFarland placed 73rd overall.

Both of the BLAZE Team members have been running since high school, Captain Payne started running after being cut from the baseball team and Lieutenant McFarland wanted to stay in shape for soccer. They found themselves enjoying running more than either baseball or soccer, and have been testing themselves against other runners ever since.

“One of the best things that ever happened to me was getting cut from the baseball team in tenth grade,” Captain Payne said. “I wasn’t happy at the time but it gave me a chance to try out for the track team that year instead and I loved running ever since.”

“Plus, I was a horrible baseball player anyway,” the captain quipped.

After commissioning, both officers found themselves compelled to apply for the Air Force Sports Program, and ended up being the only members from Air Education and Training Command chosen for this year's team. The program, according to its website (www.usafsports.com <<http://www.usafsports.com>>) is designed to allow active duty, guard and reserve Air Force personnel the opportunity to participate at the Air Force, armed forces, national and international sports events.

“To get selected, I applied via an Air Force Form 303, which contained race times, experience, and references,”



Capt. Ben Payne, 41st Flying Training Squadron, back row, far right, and 2nd Lt. Ian McFarland, 14th Operations Support Squadron, back row, fourth from right, participated in the Armed Forces Cross Country Championships in Baltimore, Md. last week. Payne, who finished 5th in the men's 12K and McFarland finishing 10th helped catapult the Air Force to an overall team victory.

Lieutenant McFarland said. “From the entries they pick the best team they can to represent the Air Force.”

Lieutenant McFarland said he's looking forward to seeing how he fares against the best the armed forces and the U.S. has to offer.

While this is the lieutenant's first race with the team, Captain McFarland has become an Air Force Sports veteran since being commission in 2004.

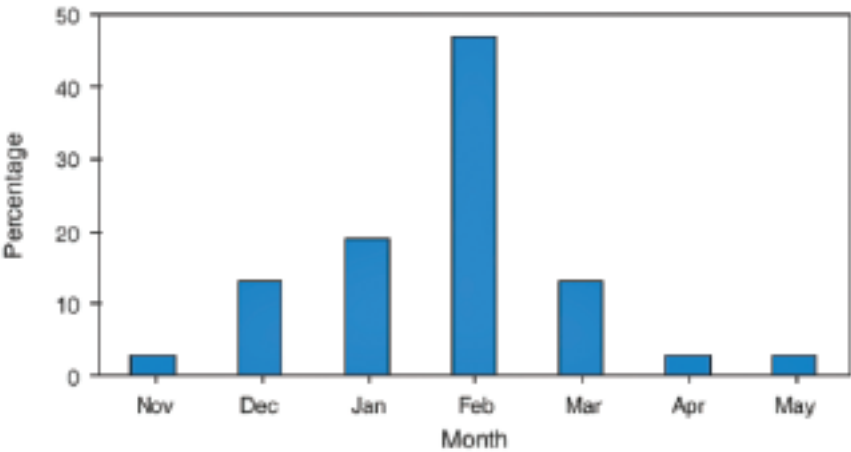
He said this is the third time he's run with the Air Force team at the Armed Forces Cross Country Championship,

and that it's his favorite race.

Both officers agree the race, and the team, is a great way to not only have fun competing but to represent the Air Force and its Airmen.

By finishing in the top 12 at the Armed Forces Championships, Captain Payne and Lieutenant McFarland qualified to represent not only the Air Force but their country at the 2009 Conseil International du Sport Militaire World Military Cross Country Championship, Dec. 2 thru 6 in Abidjan, Ivory Coast.

FIGURE 1. Peak influenza activity, by month — United States, 1976–77 through 2007–08 influenza seasons



We also encourage all members who received their flu vaccine off base to please bring proof of immunization to the MDG so that we may update your medical record.

Please call the Public Health Office at 434-2143 or the Immunizations clinic at 434-2187 if you have any questions. And remember....wash your hands!

Flu season at its peak

Influenza season peaks in February. It is not too late to receive your annual influenza vaccination!

The following information contains excerpts from the CDC's Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), 2008-2009.

In the United States, annual epidemics of influenza typically occur during the fall or winter months, but the peak of influenza activity can occur as late as April or May (Figure 1).

The most effective strategy for preventing influenza is annual vaccination. Vaccination efforts should continue throughout the season, because the duration of the influenza season varies, and influenza might not appear in certain communities until February or

March.

In the United States, localized outbreaks that indicate the start of seasonal influenza activity can occur as early as October. However, in >80% of influenza seasons since 1976, peak influenza activity (which is often close to the midpoint of influenza activity for the season) has not occurred until January or later, and in >60% of seasons, the peak was in February or later.

Influenza vaccine is still available at the 14th Medical Group. We encourage all personnel and their family members to stop by and receive this important immunization. There is no appointment necessary. Immunization clinic hours are Mon-Fri 0730-1600. The clinic closes at 1445 on Thursday for training.

Professional Boxing: Boxer, 2008 Olympic medalist and Tuscaloosa, Al., native Deontay Wilder will be at the Trotter Convention Center March 6. Doors open at 6 p.m., fight starts at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for general admission, or a VIP table (seats ten) for \$300. For ticket information, call Oliver Miller at (662) 364-3443.

MOAA Scholarship: The Military Officer Association of America will award 25 grants of \$1,000 each for the 2009-2010 school year. Applicants must be the dependant child of an active duty member or a drilling reserve/national guard member, officer or enlisted, of the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard,

U.S. Public Health Services, or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Applicants must be a high school senior or college student who will be working on his or her first undergraduate degree and be under the age of 24. Applications can be made online at <http://www.moaa.org/education>. The deadline for online entry is March 2.


Community Coffeehouse Concert: This event will be held Feb. 20 at 7 p.m. at the Columbus Country Club. The event will feature Christian Singer/Songwriter, Chas Lutz of Atlanta, Ga., and other local artists. This event is free with coffee, tea and dessert provided. This is a great opportunity to share love with the Palmer Home

for Children. For more information, call Sherry Carlstrom at 889-8038.


The Air Force Sergeants Association: the Airmen Memorial Foundation, and the Chief Master Sergeants of the Air Force join together annually to conduct a scholarship program to financially assist the undergraduate studies of eligible, dependent children of Air Force active duty, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve Command enlisted members, and Air Force Sergeants Association members in active, retired, or veteran status. To date, the AFSA Scholarship programs have granted \$1.5 million to dependents of the Air Force enlisted population. Dependent youth who have a grade point

average of 3.5 or higher and a minimum combined SAT score of 1650 or minimum combined ACT score of 24 are encouraged to submit an application. More criteria and application package information is available on the AFSA website: www.hqafsa.org All completed applications packets must be received at AFSA Headquarters no later than March 31, 2009. Incomplete packages are ineligible for the competition.

For more information about local area events, e-mail AFRC@columbus.af.mil or call the Airman and Family Readiness Center at 434-2790.



Visit [www. columbus.af.mil](http://www.columbus.af.mil) to learn about Columbus AFB agencies and other important information.



BARGAIN LINE

V8, Limited, gun-metal grey, 75,000 miles, \$9,800. Call (910) 658-1503.

Homes

For sale: 374 Chan Mar Drive, Caledonia, custom home, four bedrooms, two bathrooms, bonus room, formals, 2,466 square feet on 2.8 acres, wired shop, \$295,700. Call 889-3974. **For sale:** 16' X 80' 2005 Clayton trailer, all kitchen apparel, vinyl siding, shingle roof, like new condition, \$25,000, located in Starkville. Call (228) 326-0219 or (601) 916-0111.

For sale: Home in Oakdale Park. Less than five minutes from CAFB. Four bedrooms, three bathroom, 3,000 square feet, \$285,000. Call (910) 658-1503.

For sale: 9.6 acres in Hamilton, Miss., 10-15 minutes from CAFB. Call 889-4988.

For sale: Home in Caledonia, gorgeous home built in 2007. Three bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms, formal dining, breakfast, office and weight room, two-car garage with storage, large front and back porches overlooking two acres, 2,550 square feet,

\$289,900. Call 662-549-1016.

For sale: home in Caledonia, 2008, beautiful reconstructed home on one acre, three bedrooms, two bathrooms, formal dining, breakfast, mud room,

two-car garage with built-in work space, large, private back porch with lots of trees, \$185,000. Call 889-2518.

For sale: home in Caledonia, four bedrooms, two bathrooms,

located on one acre lot with large workshop/garage, lavish landscaping with mature trees, large patio/parking area, \$149,000. Call 889-2518.

Bargain Line advertisement

The Bargain Line is free for all military members (including guard and reserve members), DOD civilians, military retirees, family members and contract employees.

Bargain Line advertisements must be turned in to the Silver Wings office in the 14th Flying Training Wing headquarters building by noon Monday to be included in the following week's issue. Late ads will be held over for the next issue.

Renuns must be phoned in to the Silver Wings office, 434-7068, by noon Monday for inclusion in the next week's issue. Please do not re-submit ads for rerun on this form. Advertisements should contain a home phone number, home address or both. Duty phone numbers will not appear in the ads.

Advertisements for private businesses or services providing a continuous source of income, such as baby-sitting or rental property, may not appear in the Bargain Line. They may, however, be purchased through the Silver Wings publisher, 328-2424. Please fill out this form completely. The Silver Wings staff reserves the right to edit ads as necessary.

Type of advertisement (circle one)	Home	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Yard sales	Pets
Print advertisement _____					

Name _____					
Home Telephone # _____		Duty Telephone # _____ (in case we need more information)			
Please let us know what you think of the Silver Wings:					
Are you happy with the Silver Wings? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>					
What would you like to see more of in the newspaper? News <input type="checkbox"/> Sports <input type="checkbox"/> Photos <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____					
If you would like to give any other suggestions, please e-mail us at silverwings@columbus.af.mil .					



Sports banquet honors Columbus athletes

Columbus Air Force Base athletes were treated to a banquet in their honor Monday evening at the Columbus Club.

Over 95 members of the Columbus AFB community, including several business sponsors, gathered at the Columbus club for the banquet.

Fitness Center Director Mr. Carmine Muscarella set the stage for the evening with a quote from Gen. Douglas MacArthur, “On the fields of friendly strife are sown the seeds that on other days and other fields will bear the fruits of victory.” Muscarella continued that it is our sports programs that prepare our fit Airmen for the rigors of 18 hour days, in 120 degree heat, in a deployed environment.

Col. Roger Watkins, 14th Flying Training Wing commander, presented trophies to the 2008 Columbus AFB Outstanding Male and Female Athletes of the year. Top male athlete honors went to Capt. Benjamin Payne, 41st Flying Training Squadron. Captain Payne garnered many cross country accolades. He was the team captain of the Columbus AFB relay team which represented Air Education and Training Command in the Air Force Marathon at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio where the team placed first and he placed first with the fastest individual 10K time. Most recently, at the Armed Force Cross country meet Feb. 7 in Baltimore, Md., Captain Payne’s 5th-place finish helped the Air Force Cross Country Team take first place, marking the first time since 2004 Team Air Force beat their sister services.

Colonel Watkins presented the Outstanding Female Athlete trophy to Capt. Kristi Contardo, 43rd Flying Training Squadron. Captain Contardo also participates in several marathons. She was the captain of the AETC female relay team at the Air Force Marathon. In the 2008 BLAZE race 5K, she finished second while pushing a stroller.

“Sports improve teamwork, cohesiveness, communication and morale amongst a team,” noted Mr. Muscarella. At Columbus AFB, the word team is also synonymous with unit. “A unit that can function at a higher level because its Airmen know how to “read” and anticipate other members actions is an invaluable asset to our notions fighting forces.”

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Colonel Watkins then presented the traveling Commander’s Trophy to the 14th Medical Group. The Commander’s Trophy represents the culmination of an entire year of athletic participation and excellence. The medical Group won the title with 895 points and is the second year in a row the medical group has won the trophy.

“I hope we can further encourage our Airmen to participate in the sports programs offered here at Columbus AFB.” commented Mr. Muscarella. “Hopefully this banquet will also help reward excellence in competition as well.”



U.S. Air Force Photo by Melissa Duncan

Col. Roger Watkins, 14th Flying Training Wing commander, presents the Columbus Air Force Base Commander's Trophy to the 14th Medical Group. The Commander's Trophy represents the culmination of an entire year of athletic participation and excellence.



U.S. Air Force photo by Sonic Johnson

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Safety Awards presented



U.S. Air Force photo
(Above) Col. Roger Watkins, 14th Flying Training Wing commander, presents Lt. Col. David Gossett, 14th Operations Support Squadron commander, with the Wing Commander's First Quarter Ground Safety Award for the 14th OSS. (Below) Col. Watkins presents Lt. Col. Charles Hamilton, 41st Flying Training Squadron commander, with the Wing Commander's First Quarter Flight Safety Award for the 41st FTS.



U.S. Air Force photo
Col. Roger Watkins, 14th Flying Training Wing commander, presents Wing Commander's First Quarter Ground Safety Individual Award of Distinction to Randy E. J. Putnam, 14th FTW.



South Gate Barrier Project

The Barriers Installation Project for the South Gate will begin mid February and will last until late April. This project will provide vehicle final denial barriers (pop-up barriers) on Independence Avenue approximately 600-feet north of the intersection of Imes Street, at the south entrance to the clinic, and on Imes Street approximately 440-feet east of Independence Ave. An 18-inch high brick containment wall will be constructed on both sides of Independence Ave and Imes Street from the gate house to the locations of the final denial barriers. The brick wall will act as a passive barrier to direct and channelize the flow of traffic in the desired direction. This roadway containment system is necessary to prevent inbound vehicles from unauthorized access to Columbus AFB. A vehicle final denial barrier system will also be installed at the Main Gate late spring. Similar projects are currently under construction at eight other AETC bases.

The brick containment wall for the project will be constructed in close proximity to the roadway edges in some areas along Independence Avenue and Imes Street (approximate sections to be impacted are highlighted above). Traffic will not be closed off for this phase of construction and flagmen will be present when necessary to direct traffic. Please be alert and exercise extreme caution along these sections of roadway during this construction period.

Columbus Lowndes Development LINK to host identity theft, scams seminar

The Columbus Lowndes Development LINK's Seminar Committee Invites you to attend a seminar on the topic of IDENTITY THEFT AND CURRENT SCAMS.

Presented by: Dick Brodbeck Director of Communications Better Business Bureau of Mississippi	Points of discussion will be: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Don't fall for it• Shred it and forget it• Don't let it happen to you
--	--

Thursday, February 26th, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Columbus Country Club

Buffet Lunch - \$12.00
Payable at the door
Cash, checks, credit cards and club charges accepted

Seating is limited and reservations are necessary. Please email mlipscomb@cldlink.org or call the LINK office at 662-328-8369

FOR LEASE

Two impressive brand new loft apartments.
Less than 2 miles from CAFB gate.

Each apartment has:

- 2 carpeted bedrooms with large walk-in closets
- 2 full ceramic baths
- Laundry room
- Living room featuring 10 ft. ceilings & beautiful hardwood floors
- Spacious kitchen with abundance of convenient cabinets, Maytag appliances and hardwood floors

Apartment 1 is 1,150 sq. ft. • Rent-\$950/mo.
Apartment 2 is 1,200 sq.ft. • Rent-\$1,000/mo.

Water & cable are included; alarm system is installed with monitoring available.

For more information call
662-434-0303, 386-5500, or 386-5501



NEW SALEM BAPTIST CHURCH
welcomes you
7086 Wolf Road, 3 miles south of Caledonia, MS
(662) 356-4940
E-mail: newsalembaptist@cableone.net
Web-Site: newsalembaptistcaledonia.com
Bro. David R. Woods, Pastor

SUNDAY MORNINGS
(Beginning Oct. 19) 8:17 am (See Pro. 8:17 KJV)
Early Worship Service
9:30 am: Sunday School for All Ages
10:30 am: Worship Service
(Children's Church for ages 4 - 2nd grade)

SUNDAY EVENINGS
(September - May) 4:00 pm: Jr. Varsity & Varsity A.W.A.N.A.
(Jr. Varsity: ages 6, 7, 8 grades; Varsity: High School)
(September - May) 4:15 pm: Club A.W.A.N.A.
(for Ages 3 yr. old - 5th Grade)
(June - August) 5:00 pm: Summer Blast for Children
(Ages 3 yr. old - 5th Grade)
(June - August) 5:00 pm: Youth Discipleship Training
5:00 pm: Discipleship Training for Adults
6:00 pm: Worship
7:00 pm: Adult Choir Practice

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS
@ 6:30 pm
Mission Friends: ages 3 - 5
R.A.s & G.A.s: 1st - 5th Grades
Youth Bible Study: 6th - 12th Grades
Adult Bible Study/Prayer
Nursery is provided for all services.

East End Baptist Church

SUNDAY

Bible Study (All Ages) 9:15AM
Morning Worship 10:30AM
Children's Handbells 4:30PM
Adult Bible Study 5:00PM

Youth Praise Choir
Pre-School Choir
Children's Graded Choir
Evening Worship 6:00PM

WEDNESDAY

AWANA 6:00PM
Prayer Service & Adult Bible Study.... 6:30PM
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal..... 7:30PM

380 Hwy. 50 West, P.O.Box 8480
662.328.5915
www.eastendbc.org

First Presbyterian Church (USA)
Where All Are Welcome

Sunday
9:45 a.m. Church School All Ages
11:00 a.m. Worship

Sunday Evenings
Youth Programs

Nursery Provided All Services

Presbyterian Child Development Program
327-9944
Tuesday-Friday Mornings
8:30-11:30 a.m.

3200 Bluecutt Road
Columbus, Mississippi
662-328-5992

Attention Advertisers!

To schedule your Silver Wings advertising contact your Commercial Dispatch advertising representative.

Beth, Celsie, Mandy
Samantha or Steven

If you need an advertising representative please call us today!

662-328-2427

An eye doctor can
see things you can't.

One in three adults over 40 has a vision problem — and many don't even know it. That's because many vision problems have no warning signs. An eye doctor can identify serious vision and health conditions before you can. For the latest information on vision health, visit checkyearly.com. A public service message from the Vision Council of America and AARP.



Base News

Education Counseling Hours
Education counseling (CCAF, Bachelor's/Master's programs, Tuition Assistance, etc.) is now available Mondays and Wednesdays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. by appointment only. Please contact Edward Hodge at 434-2562 to schedule.

Tax Services
H&R Block will be providing tax preparation services January 2, 2009 through April 15, 2009. They will be located in the Columbus AFB Exchange Please call Tom Darnell at 434-0070 for more information or to set up an appointment as hours will vary.

DRMO
Authorized personnel may retrieve property that is marked for DRMO Facilities only if they are still physically located in Base Supply. For more information, call 434-7233 to review the property or call Stock Control Section at 434-7179 or 434-7198. To check for authorization and Demand Processing Section, call 434-7178 to order the property. All other DRMO processing is done via the Web at www.drms.dla.mil.

Zero Overpricing Program-Incentive Awards
Overpricing is an issue everyone should be working. All personnel are encouraged to participate, and will be rewarded for any tangible savings resulting from their price challenge. Monetary awards will be given in accordance with AFI 38-401, The Air Force Innovative Development Employee Awareness Program. Advice and guidance are available by calling the Customer Service element of Base Supply, located in Building 158, at 434-7178.

Contemporary Movie Showings
Join us at the Columbus AFB Chapel the last Thursday of each month from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. for fun, food and fellowship, as we watch a contemporary movie, have dinner and discuss what God has planned for us. Please call the chapel at 434-2500 to sign-up. There is no fee for this class. There is no childcare available.
Schedule as follows:
Steel Magnolia: Feb. 26
Little Women: March 26
Sense and Sensibility: April 30

Dental Clinic Closure
The Columbus AFB Dental Clinic will be closed for regular scheduled appointments on Feb. 24 and Feb. 25 for facility improvements. The clinic will remain open for dental emergencies and staff will be available to expedite any administrative requirements to include PCS, deployments, retirements and/or separations. If you have any questions the clinic can be reached at calling 434-2250.

Weight Loss with Wisdom
It's time to make that New Year's resolution to get those unwanted pounds off for good, but who wants to do it alone? Please join us at the Chapel each Thursday 4:30 p.m. for advise, instruction and prayer for our goals. Lose a little weight with some friends. For more information, please call the Chapel office at 434-2500.

Supply Customer
If you are looking for that special piece of equipment or furniture for your office, your point of contact is the Inspection Section of Base Supply. Inspection maintains the Last Look Area, which has used equipment and furniture turned in from other organizations that no longer have a need for the items. All items in the Last Look Area are available without charge to your organization. For more information, you can contact the Inspection Section at 434-7233 or 434-7234.

Attention All Deployers
The 14th Communications Squadron has a new system which allows you to place "free" telephone calls back home from your deployed location via DSN. You can call every day or once a week; whichever you prefer (allotted time is 3.5 hours a week). Pin numbers are required and can be picked up along with instructions from the Telephone Systems office located in Building 900, Room 9. Please call 434-2020 for additional information.

Gas Mask Fit Test
Gas Mask Fit Testing will now be by appointment only. Appointments will be taken Wednesdays and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Exceptions to appointment times will be made for deployers only. For more information, call Bioenvironmental Engineering at 434-2286 or 434-2226.

Thrift Shop
The Thrift Shop is open for consignments of household goods, appliances that are in good working order, furniture and electronics. Please, no computer equipment. Clothing is accepted as donation items only.
The Thrift Shop is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Consignments are taken up until noon.

School Liaison Officer
The Columbus Air Force Base School Liaison Officer works with local school districts, schools, parents and students on issues related to elementary and secondary education for the children of ALL personnel (civilian, military and contractor) assigned to the installation. As parents of school age children are aware, there are many unique issues our children face as they transition to new schools. The role of the School Liaison Officer is to assist families ensure their children receive the best possible education regardless of where they attend school. For assistance, please con-

tact the School Liaison Officer at 434-2792 or via email at slo@columbus.af.mil.

CAC Card Replacement
Members can replace their Common Access Card within 60 days of it expiring. All personnel will need to provide the following at the time of replacement: two forms of identification, government ("dot" mil or gov) email address, a six to eight digit personal identification number and an application for a CAC, the appropriate application will be provided to appointment is made. Call 434-2626 or 434-2624 to schedule an appointment.

Testing Hours
The Education Office conducts CLEP/DANTES, CDC, PME, etc. testing on Tuesdays and Thursdays promptly at 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. Students arriving late will be rescheduled. Testing will be conducted outside of this schedule only when verifiable extreme circumstances exist. Please call 434-2562 or 434-2561 to schedule an exam.

Airman and Family
Readiness Center

(Editor's note: All activities are offered at the Airman & Family Readiness Center unless otherwise specified. For more information about any of the activities listed, call 434-2790 or email afrc@columbus.af.mil.)

Pre-Deployment Brief
There is a mandatory briefing for active duty personnel who are deploying or going on a remote tour. The brief is held every work day at 9:30 a.m. Spouses are welcome to attend.

Post-Deployment Brief
This mandatory briefing is for active duty personnel who are returning from deployment or a remote tour are held daily at 1:30 p.m. at the A&FRC. For more information, call 434-2790.

Preseparation Counseling
This mandatory briefing for personnel separating or retiring to be completed at least 90 days prior to separation is held daily at 8:30 a.m. May complete up to 12 months prior to separation or retirement. This briefing takes approximately 30 minutes. For more information, call 434-2839 or 434-2790.

Lunch, Learn Communication Training
Bring your lunch and learn how to handle the communication training Feb. 20 at 11 a.m.

Telephone Directories
Local AT&T "The Real Yellow Pages"® are available at the Airman and Family Readiness Center. Stop by and pick up your free copy.

Budgeting Basics
This event is held every Wednesday from 11 a.m. to noon at Airman & Family Readiness Center. Learn practical ways to tell your money where to go rather than wonder where it went. For more information, call 434-2790.

AFAS...Air Force People Helping Each Other
Sudden emergency and no cash? It can happen to anyone. Your Air Force Aid Society has assisted Air Force people for 66 years and is there to help you. Call 434-2855 for more information.

Employment Workshop
There is an employment workshop every Wednesday at 1 p.m. Airman and Family Readiness Center. Participants will learn about local and base employment opportunities. For more information, call 434-2790.

Spouse Welcome
A special welcome for new personnel assigned to Columbus AFB is held each Wednesday from 10 to 11 a.m. in the Magnolia Inn Lobby. For more information, call 434-2790.

Fam-Link "What's Happening"
Looking for something to do in the area—on or off base? Sign up for the Airman and Family Readiness Flight electronic newsletter. Events include: plays, concerts, flea markets, sports, seminars, wellness classes, festivals and craft classes. To sign up, send an e-mail to AFRC@columbus.af.mil and ask to be added to the list. This newsletter provides great information to help you explore and enjoy your tour here at CAFB. For more information, call the Airman and Family Readiness Center at 434-2631.

Chapel Schedule

Protestant
Sunday: 9 a.m. — Adult Sunday School
10:45 a.m. — Traditional
Worship Service (Children's Church)

All are invited to a fellowship luncheon following the 10:45 a.m. service the fourth Sunday of each month

Catholic
Thursday
5 p.m. — Choir Practice

Sunday:
3:45 p.m. — Choir Practice
4:30 p.m. — Confession
5:00 p.m. — Mass

Black History Month luncheon



U.S. Air Force photo/Elizabeth Owens

Lt. Col. David Coley, chief of AFRICOM/EURCOM/SOCOM Operations Branch, U.S. Transportation Command, Scott Air Force Base, Ill., speaks at the annual Black History Month Luncheon Feb. 9 at the Columbus Club. The luncheons theme was "The Quest for Black Citizenship in the Americas."

The Airman's Creed

I am an American Airman.
I am a Warrior.
I have answered my nation's call.

I am an American Airman.
My mission is to fly, fight, and win.
I am faithful to a proud heritage.
A tradition of honor,
And a legacy of valor.

I am an American Airman.
Guardian of freedom and justice,
My nation's sword and shield,
Its sentry and avenger.
I defend my country with my life.

I am an American Airman.
Wingman, leader, warrior.
I will never leave an Airman behind,
I will never falter,
And I will not fail.

INCOME TAX
PAY DAY
APRIL 15

CAFB Tax Center

The Columbus AFB Tax Center will be open from now through April 15. The hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Walk-ins are welcome, but appointments are recommended. For more Information, please call the Tax Center at 434-7613.



CAFB Legal Office

The Columbus AFB Legal Office hours of operation are Monday through Friday, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. You can contact the Columbus AFB Legal Office at 434-7030. Legal assistance appointments are available on Tuesdays, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. However, in deployments and emergencies, we will provide short-notice legal service at any time. Additionally, notary services and powers of attorney are available on a walk-in basis during duty hours.



U.S. Air Force Photo by Sonic Johnson

Lt. Col. Michael Dilda, 14th Mission Support Group Deputy Commander serves wine to Dana Maksimowicz, Wife of Maj. Mike Maksimowicz, 14th Flying Training Wing at the Officer's Spouse Club annual wine tasting Feb. 10. Over 90 members attended the OSC social at the Columbus Club.

Gen. Schwartz addresses top ROTC cadets

Staff Sgt. J.G. Buzanowski
Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

RESTON, Va. — The top Air Force ROTC cadets from around the country gathered in the nation's capitol and met the top uniformed Air Force officer as guests of the George C. Marshall Foundation while attending a leadership and networking seminar Jan. 30 through Feb. 1.

The cadets each were the recipient of the Marshall-Henry "Hap" Arnold Award from their respective detachment, awarded annually to outstanding senior cadets at each college and university with an Air Force ROTC program. Award winners are selected on the basis of integrity, leadership, scholarship, duty and physical conditioning.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz was the keynote speaker at the event. He provided insight and perspective to the cadets who are set to begin their careers as second lieutenants in the fall.

"There is nothing in the world as fun, fascinating and exciting as the possibilities and promise of a new career serving in uniform," General Schwartz said. "You are earning something of great worth through your hard work, development and dedication. I want you to be mindful of the great path you have ahead of you as you prepare for your commis-

sioning."

The seminar gave the cadets the opportunity to talk with one another and exchange ideas on everything from detachment operations to their future as officers.

For Cadet Col. Nikita Werling, the chance to listen to General Schwartz talk about the future of the Air Force and their role in it was a highlight of the trip.

"Most cadets don't get to see the Air Force chief of staff, let alone get to hear him speak," said Cadet Colonel Werling, a senior at UCLA and the wing commander of her detachment. "This is a great opportunity to talk with other cadets and I can't wait to get back and tell them about what we learned here. I know the close-air-support mission and unmanned aircraft systems briefings are of great interest to all of us."

In addition to the networking opportunities, the seminar hosted several discussion panels for the cadets. Speakers included Air Force officers and civilians considered subject matter experts on such topics as national security, ethics and recruiting.

"We hope the cadets get the message that they are part of a bigger cause, larger than any one of us," said Brian Shaw, president of the Marshall Foundation. "The issues they address here are the issues they'll be facing as the future leaders of the Air Force."

Deployment history to be removed from promotion briefs

Richard Salomon
Air Force Personnel Center
Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — Air Force officials here recently announced that deployment history data will be deleted from duty qualification briefs for officer selection and preselection and from senior noncommissioned officer evaluation briefs.

This total-force initiative will apply to all active-duty members, Reserve and Guard personnel.

"These changes will impact management level reviews, as well as officer and enlisted central selection boards," said Lt. Col. John Giles, chief of promotions and evaluations at the Pentagon.

The deployment data will be removed from senior NCO evaluation briefs with the February 2009 senior master sergeant promotion board. It will also be removed from the June 2009 lieutenant colonel (line of the Air Force) and medical service corps promotion boards when the system modifications are complete.

For the Reserve, the change will go into effect with the April 2009 (chaplain, line of the Air Force judge advocate general) major and lieutenant colonel board. For the Guard, the change will occur with the

colonel's Federal Recognition Review Board that convenes in March 2009.

"Many factors have led to the recent change in policy, especially since deployments now take many forms across the Air Force," Colonel Giles said.

In addition to "traditional" deployments, such as long-term deployments to the area of responsibility, some career fields such as space and missile and unmanned aircraft system operators do not typically deploy but provide daily support operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

In addition, many global mobility Airmen, as well as Guard and Reserve Airmen, do not spend 45 consecutive days in the AOR (a minimum requirement for documentation), but often deploy for more than 45 cumulative days within a calendar year.

"All of these are valid and important deployments, but they are documented elsewhere in officer selection records and senior enlisted selection records," Colonel Giles said.

This documentation includes decoration citations, bullets on officer and enlisted performance reports, promotion recommendation form statements, letters to officer promotion boards and more.

For more information, call the Air Force Contact Center at 800-616-3775.

AF heritage, history on display at BWI airport

Tech. Sgt. A.J. Bosker
Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

BALTIMORE — The rich diversity, heritage and history of the Air Force can be seen as part of an exhibit on display at the Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport through July 30.

Nearly 50 pieces from the Air Force art collection are part of a rotating exhibit in the airport's international terminal which sees thousands of travelers each month.

The exhibit features "an extraordinary assortment of really great art," said Timothy Campbell, executive director of the Maryland Aviation Administration, during the exhibit's official opening ceremony Feb. 5 at the airport.

Mr. Campbell said the airport is fortunate to have these pieces on display documenting the achievements and history of military aerospace and aviation.

"The location of this exhibit in the international terminal is wonderful," said William Davidson, administrative assistant to the secretary of the Air Force. "The venue is beautiful; the natural lighting is wonderful but more important is its close proximity to our Air Mobility Command's passenger terminal.

"It's from this terminal that a large majority of our Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors and Marines leave for overseas deployments and return home," Mr. Davidson said. "Having these pieces from our Air Force art collection on display here gives us the opportunity to tell the story of what our men and women in uniform are accomplishing."

Mr. Davidson said having this exhibit on display during the month of February is special.

"February is African American History Month and this

exhibit gives us a forum to recognize the diversity of our Airmen, past and present, and their vital contributions," he said. "Many of the pieces here today feature the Tuskegee Airmen, the first African American pilots to serve in combat during World War II."

At that time, these Airmen not only were fighting the enemy abroad, but also discrimination at home and among their fellow soldiers, Mr. Davidson said. Despite these challenges, these Airmen served with distinction.

Even the red-painted tails of their aircraft, initially designed to warn other pilots that an African American was flying that plane, eventually became a point of pride, courage and determination of the Tuskegee Airmen to accomplish their mission despite racial barriers. This determination is something that those in the Air Force today are very proud of, Mr. Davidson said.

"We're also proud that our art collection does not focus solely on Airmen," he said. "We're members of a joint team and we've asked our artists to document not only our Airmen, but also the Soldiers, Sailors and Marines we work so closely with.

"Our artists aren't told what to paint, sketch or draw," Mr. Davidson said. "We just provide them the opportunity to accompany our Airmen on training, humanitarian and even combat operations to see for themselves what we're doing. They interact with our people accomplishing their missions and interpret what they see and experience firsthand to tell the true story of the Air Force and our people."

All of the artwork in the Air Force collection is donated by the artists, explained Russell Kirk, director of the Air Force Art Program.

"Our artists, a part of the larger Air Force family, sacrifice



U.S. Air Force photo/Andy Morataya

William Davidson, administrative assistant to the secretary of the Air Force, explains the significance of the Air Force Art Program exhibit's location Feb. 5 during the opening ceremony at the Baltimore Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport. The exhibit, located in the international terminal, is in close proximity to the Air Mobility Command's passenger terminal, the departure and arrival location for a large majority of military members deploying overseas. It gives military members, their families and the general public an opportunity to learn about what Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors and Marines are accomplishing.

their time to travel the globe and cover our mission, produce beautiful pieces of art and then donate them to us," Mr. Kirk said. "Most say they do it because they want to give back something to the men and women who are defending our country and who sometimes make the ultimate sacrifice in service to the nation."

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Our intention this past week was to pause from our fast pace, busy schedules and to take time to call upon God to give us wisdom and help. This is a tradition which has gone on for many generations and with your continued support, will likely continue for many more.